

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held in pretrial detention at the prison for more than 19 months after his arrest;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pretrial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas even Vladimir Zherebenkov, the lawyer appointed by the Federal Security Service to represent Paul Whelan, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas then-United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

Whereas then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

Whereas the Kremlin has refused to provide Paul Whelan with full access to his lawyer, and the so-called evidence against Paul Whelan and any evidence he has seen is in Russian, a language Whelan does not read or speak;

Whereas the Lefortovo pretrial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to the trial as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day, Paul Whelan was secretly transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, Russia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

Whereas Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call for the Russian authorities to correct this injustice and release Paul Whelan;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release United States citizens detained in the Russian Federation, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States;

Whereas, on July 23, 2021, the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution calling for the release of Whelan;

Whereas, in August 2021, Whelan was released from a month-long stay in a solitary confinement at the IK-17 penal colony in the region of Mordovia;

Whereas Secretary Blinken "pressed" the Kremlin to accept an offer by the United States that would bring Paul Whelan and Brittney Griner home in July 2022;

Whereas, in November 2022, Paul Whelan was unable to contact his family for more than a week, during which time Russian authorities claimed Whelan had been sent to the hospital;

Whereas Russian authorities refused to release Paul Whelan as part of the prisoner exchange in December 2022;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, "His detention remains unacceptable, and we continue to press for his immediate release at every opportunity"; and

Whereas President Biden stated that his administration had "not forgotten about Paul Whelan," and promised to "keep negotiating in good faith for his release": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Paul Whelan from imprisonment;

(2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to comply with international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitutionally afforded due process rights and universally recognized human rights;

(4) expresses the sincere thanks of the United States to the Governments of Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom for their support in attempting to release Paul Whelan; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty to justice and personal hardship and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to a just end.

SENATE RESOLUTION 157—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 157

Whereas, 25 years ago, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the "Belfast Agreement", giving birth to a new era of peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas former Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, Jr. of Maine, was appointed by President William J. Clinton to be United States Special Envoy for Northern Ireland and chaired the peace negotiations, which produced the Good Friday Agreement, marking the end of decades of conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that remains critical to peace in the future;

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement remain to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure enduring peace and stability for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas a restored, fully functioning, Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive are essential to the facilitation of new opportunities and prosperity for the people of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Congress continues to support the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent implementation agreements and arrangements in order to support peace on the island of Ireland;

Whereas the new Windsor Framework, agreed in principle on February 27, 2023, by the United Kingdom and the European Union, will help ensure trade within the United Kingdom remains smooth, while protecting Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom and safeguarding its sovereignty as well as maintaining an open border on the island of Ireland and protecting the integrity of the European Union's single market;

Whereas, despite the historic progress in implementing the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a bill of rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including violence by state and nonstate actors, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement ("Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity") recognizes "the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity," and, in 2022, the United Kingdom Parliament passed the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act providing for the official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, and for the appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner and a Commissioner for the Ulster Scots and the Ulster British Tradition;

Whereas Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly;

Whereas Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a special relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on diplomatic, security, trade, economic, and foreign assistance issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998, and celebrates the historic compromise that marked the beginning of a new era of peaceful political engagement in Northern Ireland;

(2) welcomes the Windsor Framework agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, and urges all parties to continue to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement;

(3) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to recommit urgently to power-sharing and restoration of a fully functioning Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive;

(4) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Windsor Framework;

(5) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(6) urges the United Kingdom Parliament and the European Union to support and implement in good faith the new Windsor Framework in order to ensure trade continues to flow smoothly within the United Kingdom and maintain an open border on the island of Ireland, while protecting the European Union's single market;

(7) supports the passage of a bill of rights for Northern Ireland and the principle of consent in relation to the right of self-determination for all the people on the island of Ireland, in line with the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement;

(8) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including violence by state and nonstate actors;

(9) observes that victims, survivors, and family members of victims of Troubles-era violence must be able to fully pursue justice;

(10) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished, in line with the Good Friday Agreement commitments on “Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity”;

(11) expresses support for the new Windsor Framework, part of the European Union-United Kingdom Withdrawal Agreement, which ensures through international agreement that no “hard border” will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland;

(12) greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and Ireland; and

(13) takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met as the United States seeks to negotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 58. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

SA 59. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 60. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 61. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 62. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 66. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 67. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 58. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 870, to amend

the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 59. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ GAO AUDIT AND REPORT ON FUNDING TO ENTITIES IN CHINA.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of and issue a publicly available report on Federal funds provided to entities or organizations operating in or incorporated in the People's Republic of China, including which Federal agency or program provided such funds.

SA 60. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 17, strike “funds.” and insert “funds and on barriers that prevent or limit fire departments from effectively fighting fires, including barriers from Federal rules and regulations.”.

SA 61. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 8. GAO AUDIT REGARDING INITIATING AND MANAGING PRESCRIBED FIRES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of, and issue a publicly available report regarding, barriers fire departments, fire practitioners, and government agencies face in conducting prescribed fires, including from Federal rules and regulations.

SA 62. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE AUDIT.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall conduct an audit

of the fraud, waste, and abuse within the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under section 33(c) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)), and the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program under section 33(d) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229(d)) and, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a report on the effectiveness of the United States Fire Administration and those grant programs.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, line 12, strike “\$95,000,000” and all that follows through “\$3,420,000” on line 13 and insert “\$76,490,890 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030, of which \$2,753,672”.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ RESTRICTION ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO ENTITIES THAT INVEST IN CERTAIN VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means any entity that invests sums that are set aside for pensions of employees and invests those sums in any mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, or other investment vehicle that invests in bonds or equities.

(3) ESG CRITERIA.—The term “ESG criteria” means—

(A) environmental criteria, including—

(i) emissions, climate change, sustainability, environmental justice, pollution, or conservation; or

(ii) whether a company is engaged in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;

(B) social criteria, including—

(i) diversity criteria, including—

(I) the sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status of the owners, board members, employees, or customers of companies; or

(II) whether the board members, employees, or customers described in clause (i) are members of a labor organization; or

(ii) whether a company is engaged in the manufacture, transportation, or sale of firearms, firearms accessories, or ammunition;

(C) political criteria, including the perceived or actual political affiliations, donations, or associations of companies; and

(D) criteria for corporate governance standards that differ from the applicable standards required under State and Federal law, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND.—The term “exchange-traded fund” has the meaning given the term in section 270.6c-11 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.